

## **MsSC 115**

### **Robert G. Walker Papers**

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

Robert Gile Walker was born in 1869 in Springfield, Illinois. Moving to Washington in 1888, Walker joined the Washington National Guard for three years, working as a Sergeant. In 1890, Walker formed a real estate partnership with Paul Dakin in Tacoma. Between 1897 and 1901, Walker made five trips to the Klondike and Nome in search of gold. After his fifth and final exploration in Nome, Alaska, Walker returned to Tacoma, where he married Marie Katherine Heilig in 1901 and continued to run a successful real estate business. He died on April 24, 1943.

#### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The papers of Robert G. Walker cover the years 1891 to 1901 and include correspondence, a diary and diary excerpts, financial documents and statements, newspaper clippings, legal documents, and photographs.

Legal documents such as quit-claim deeds, grubstake agreements, and placer mining claims comprise about half of the collection and primarily detail the formation of Walker's mining operation in the Klondike and Nome, his partnership with Vose and Dakin, and the securing of the rights to mine the claims.

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1891-1901

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**VOLUME:** 2 Linear Inches

**ACCESSION NO:** 1998.52.1

#### **FILE LISTING**

1. Correspondence: To William Vose from Robert Walker. December 1900 (Death of Hanson)
2. Correspondence: To Walker from Vose. September-December 1900 (Buying claims in

Stampede Gulch, Vose “timbering” a plot of land, quarantine due to smallpox, Mr. Slayden’s good business fortune in Dawson, no news from Murray’s people at Stampede Gulch, dismal prospects for mining in Stampede Gulch)

(William Vose was Walker’s mining partner in the Klondike and Nome operations.)

3. Diary: Lake Bennett to Dawson. September-October 1897
4. Diary Extracts: “First Trip Down the River-from Bennett to Dawson. Fall of 1897”
5. Diary Extracts: “From Dawson to Skagway. February-March 1899”
6. Financial Documents: Account Book and Receipts from the Bank of Cape Nome. 1901
7. Financial Notes and Statements: General. Undated
8. Financial Notes and Statements: List of Receipts and Disbursements. August 1897-February 1899
9. Financial Notes and Statements: Memorandum Statement. September 8, 1898
10. Legal Documents: Agreement between Paul Dakin and Robert Walker. August 2, 1897
11. Legal Documents: Agreement Between William Vose and Robert Walker. September 14, 1899
12. Legal Documents: Application For Grant For Placer Mining. Yukon Territory. February 21, 1899
13. Legal Documents: Bill of Sale for the Sled Dog “Bismark.” March 11, 1899
14. Legal Documents: Bill of Sale of Walker’s Interest in the Firm of Dakin and Walker. August 2, 1897 (Transfer of interest to Edwin Walker)
15. Legal Documents: Grubstake Agreement. August 3, 1897
16. Legal Documents: Honorable Discharge from the National Guard of Washington. June 8, 1891 (Sergeant Robert Walker)
17. Legal Documents: Leave of Absence Agreement Between Paul Dakin and Robert Walker. October 1899
18. Legal Documents: Placer Mining Claims. October 9, 1899 (Walker and Vose)
19. Legal Documents: Placer Mining Operation Agreement. September 29, 1898
20. Legal Documents: Quit-Claim Deeds Unto Robert Walker. 1900-1901
21. Stationery Letterhead: International Sourdough Reunion Inc. 1934 Reunion, Tacoma. (Robert Walker listed on the letterhead as being in charge of housing)

A scrapbook of photographs and newspaper clippings dating from 1892 to 1901 has been separated from the collection and placed with the photographic holdings under the accession number 1998.52.2. The photographs, which date from 1897 to 1901 and number 89 images, were taken by Walker and detail his explorations through Alaska and the Yukon Territory. Most of the photographs are identified and dated. They include images of Walker and his partners, their equipment and temporary encampments, and of the Northern landscape, depicting such regions as Chilcoot Pass, Fort Selkirk, Stampede Gulch, Lake LeBarge, Skagway, and Lake Bennett. About half of the newspaper clippings describe the Klondike gold

rush in general while the other half detail Robert Walker's life and adventures as a young man exploring the Olympic Mountains in 1892.